

The One Who Comes in the Lord's Name



SABBATH—FEBRUARY 24

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Psalm 23; Psalm 22; Psalm 89:27–32; Psalm 2; Psalm 110:4–7; Hebrews 7:20–28.

In the Book of Psalms, we can read about almost everything Jesus will do to save us.

MEMORY VERSE: “The stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone [the most important stone in the building]. The LORD made this happen, and we think it is wonderful!” (Psalm 118:22, 23, ERV).

THE BOOK OF PSALMS tells us about Jesus and His work for God. In the Book of Psalms, we can read about almost everything Jesus will do to save us.

What topics about Jesus does the Book of Psalms include? The Book of Psalms teaches us that (1) Jesus is God. (2) Jesus is also God's Son. (3) Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (4) One of Jesus' followers will offer Him to His enemies. (5) Jesus will be obedient. (6) Jesus' bones won't be broken. (7) Jesus will die. (8) Jesus will wake up from the dead. (9) He will go to heaven. (10) He will be our Helper. (11) He is the King. The poets wrote about these topics in the Book of Psalms hundreds of years before Jesus came to this earth.

Jesus talked to His followers on the road to Emmaus about the Book of Psalms (Luke 24:44). Now we can understand why Jesus did that. He wanted His followers to find proof in the Book of Psalms and in the rest of the Bible that showed who He was.

Psalms 24, 45, 72, and 101 show that Jesus is our King and Judge. Psalms 88 and 102 are prayers that show the things Jesus suffers as one of us. In the Book of Psalms, we read Jesus' prayer for God to save the human family.

JESUS, OUR SHEPHERD (Psalm 23)

Read Psalm 23; Psalm 28:9; Psalm 80:1; Psalm 78:52, 53; Psalm 79:13; and Psalm 100:3. How is the relationship between the Lord and His people shown in these verses?

The Book of Psalms teaches us that the Lord is the same as a shepherd. God's people are His sheep. This word picture helps us understand how God takes care of His people. The people depend on God to give them everything they need. This word picture shows us the loving relationship between God and His people. Shepherds lived with their flocks and cared for each sheep. God owns the flock. The sheep are His because He gave them life (Psalm 95:6, 7; Psalm 100:3) and because He made them a promise (Hebrews 13:20).

In Psalm 80:1, we read about the Shepherd who leads Joseph the same as a flock. In this word picture, Joseph is a symbol for Israel. This word picture of the Shepherd leading Joseph helps us remember the wonderful promise that Jacob gave Joseph about Israel. The poet uses this word picture as a way of asking God to keep this wonderful promise to His people (Genesis 49:24).

In Bible times, kings were the shepherds of their people (2 Samuel 5:2). Sad to say, human kings often did not take care of their people as well as Jesus took care of people. That is why Jesus is named the Good Shepherd.

Read John 10:11–15. What does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, say about Himself in these verses?

Jesus says that His sheep know His voice (John 10:4, 27). To this day, shepherds in the Middle East can call their sheep to come to them. When the sheep hear their shepherd's voice, they separate from other sheep who are not part of their flock. Then the sheep follow their shepherd. At times, God's flock suffers hard times. They know these experiences are a sign that the Lord is not happy with them. But the Good Shepherd never leaves them. Jesus always searches for His lost sheep to save them. This powerful picture shows us God's love for His people. God is willing to die for His sheep (John 10:11, 15). Jesus, the Shepherd, becomes a Lamb, to save His sheep (John 1:29).



The Book of Psalms teaches us that the Lord is the same as a shepherd.

THE SUFFERING SAVIOR (Psalm 22)

Read Psalm 22 and Psalm 118:22. What did the people do to the One who came to save them?



Many Psalms talk about the Suffering Savior and His feelings of pain and loneliness (Psalm 42; Psalm 88; Psalm 102).

Many Psalms talk about the Suffering Savior and His feelings of pain and loneliness (Psalm 42; Psalm 88; Psalm 102). Psalm 22 tells us about Jesus' death. Jesus prayed the words of Psalm 22:1 on the cross (Matthew 27:46).

Jesus and His Father loved each other very much. They were One in heart and mind (John 1:1, 2; John 10:30). So, Jesus suffered deeply when our sins separated Him from His Father. But suffering couldn't destroy the love between Them. When the Father turned His face away from Jesus on the cross, Jesus trusted Himself more fully to the Father.

"Jesus was our Substitute. Jesus accepted the guilt of our sins. He became sin for us to save us from the punishment of breaking God's law. Jesus felt in His heart the guilt of sin from the whole human family. God's anger against sin filled Jesus' heart with fear and wonder."—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 753, adapted.

Psalm 22 uses animal symbols: strong bulls, roaring lions, and dogs. These animals show the people's hate for the Savior during His final hours on the cross. The Savior is compared to a helpless worm that can't hurt anyone. Psalm 22 tells us how the crowd at the cross made fun of Jesus when He cried out to His Father (Psalm 22:1, 8; Matthew 27:43). The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35). The people thought that Jesus was the same as a worm. They wanted to crush or destroy Him. They didn't know that He would become the same as the most important stone in the Temple (Psalm 118:22). He would make a new way for sinners to come to God.

The same Savior that the people rejected became the hope of God's people when He woke up from the dead (Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:10–12). Jesus suffered when the humans He came to save rejected Him. But God honored His Son. God made Jesus the Head of His church (Ephesians 2:20–22; 1 Peter 2:4–8). Anyone who rejects Jesus rejects God's plan to save sinners. We must fall on the Rock and be saved. Or the Rock will fall on us and break us (Isaiah 8:14; Matthew 21:44).

Jesus suffered for you. How should that make you feel about sin?

**JESUS KEEPS HIS PROMISE FOREVER
(Psalm 89:27–32)**

What is the promise with David about? Read Psalm 89:27–32, 38–46 and Psalm 132:10–12 for the answers.

God made a special promise to David. God promised to support David's future sons and to bless Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:5–16; Psalm 89:1–4, 19–37; Psalm 132:12–18). God agreed to keep His promise forever if the king obeyed God. Sad to say, the best of kings are not always loyal to God. In Psalm 89, the poet is sad because the people have lost the blessings that God promised to David. Did God reject Israel forever? Of course not!

Yes, God's anger shows His people how He feels about sin (Psalm 38:1; Psalm 74:1). But God's anger doesn't continue forever. His everlasting love forgives people's sins when they confess their guilt. While God is angry, He shows His people that He is upset with them. The people learn that sin leads to suffering. They understand that sin is terrible (Psalm 89:38–46). They know that God's anger will not continue forever (Psalm 89:46). When the people remember that God always keeps His promise, they remember His mercy. Then their hearts fill with hope that God remembers them (Psalm 89:47, 50).

In short, we may fail God. But God never fails us. We can trust in His promises to save us because of Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of David and the Savior (Matthew 1:1; Hebrews 1:8). Jesus "rules over [controls] everything that has been made" (Colossians 1:15, ERV). Colossians 1:15 helps us remember Psalm 89:27, which says: "I will make him my firstborn son [first son born in a family]. He will be the greatest [most powerful] king on earth" (ICB).

Who is the "firstborn son" in Psalm 89:27? Is the poem talking about King David? No, because David was the 8th child that his parents had, and not the first (1 Samuel 16:10, 11). The words "firstborn son" are talking about Jesus. The words show us that God gave Jesus special honor (Colossians 1:16, 20–22). When Jesus woke up from the dead, God made Jesus the most powerful King over the whole earth (Acts 2:30, 31).

Read Colossians 1:16, 20–22. What do these verses teach us about Jesus? Who was He? What did He do for us?



When Jesus woke up from the dead, God made Jesus the most powerful King over the whole earth (Acts 2:30, 31).

THE EVERLASTING KING (Psalm 2)



The place of honor at God's right side shows that Jesus is All-Powerful. He has control over all the earth (Psalm 110:1; Acts 7:55, 56).

Read Psalm 2; Psalm 110:5, 6; and Psalm 89:4, 13–17. What do these verses teach us about Jesus our King?

The Book of Psalms shows us a picture of God as the Savior's Father. This picture helps us remember the special celebration in Israel when a man was made a king. God adopted the king as His own son and made a promise with the king (Psalm 2:7; Psalm 89:26–28). Psalm 2:7 tells us that the Savior will wake up from the dead and make a new and everlasting promise with His people (Acts 13:33–39; Hebrews 1:5). Psalm 2:7 also tells us that Jesus will be the High Priest or spiritual leader of His people (Hebrews 5:5). The Savior sits at God's right side. This place of honor shows that Jesus is all-powerful. He has control over all the earth (Psalm 110:1; Acts 7:55, 56).

When the worldwide war between God and Satan ends, God will put all of Jesus' enemies under His control (Psalm 110:2; Psalm 2:9). Before this happens, evil kings are given a chance to confess their sins and worship the Savior (Psalm 2:10–12).

In Daniel 7, we see a picture of the future after Jesus wins the fight against His enemies. At the time, Jesus' kingdom is set up on the earth. Daniel tells us that Jesus' kingdom is an everlasting kingdom (Daniel 7:27). Because of the Cross, we can trust this promise.

God promises a blessing to everyone who trusts in King Jesus (Psalm 2:12). God's people are filled with joy because their Savior is also their King. He is a holy king, and His kingdom is holy, too (Psalm 89:15–17).

We know that good will win in the end. Evil will lose. God will be fair. He will end pain and suffering forever. How should this Bible truth make us feel now when evil often looks as if it is winning the fight against good?

JESUS, OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER (Psalm 110:4–7)

Jesus is our High Priest or spiritual leader (Psalm 110:4–7). What makes His work as Priest for us so special? What hope does His work as Priest in heaven give us?

The Lord makes His people a special promise (Hebrews 6:18). Jesus will be their King (Psalm 110:1–3) and High Priest, or spiritual leader, forever (Psalm 110:4–7). This promise shows us God’s mercy. Our sins continue to separate us from God. But God made us a promise. His promise can’t change. His mercy is proof that He will keep His promise to His people when they confess their sins to Him (Exodus 32:14; Psalm 106:45).

God’s oath is special because He promises that the Savior is both a King and a Priest (Psalm 110:4). Israel’s kings weren’t allowed to serve as priests (Numbers 8:19; 2 Chronicles 26:16–21). When the Bible says that kings or people brought offerings to the priests, the priests were the ones who offered the animals to God. Psalm 110 says that the Savior King is different from the rest of Israel’s kings and priests. Jesus is a Priest much the same as Melchizedek. Melchizedek was both the king of Salem (an early name for Jerusalem) and the priest of God (Genesis 14:18–20). Does the Old Testament say anywhere else that King David or any other king of Israel was a king and priest the same as Melchizedek? We only read about that in Psalm 110. This Psalm talks about a special king-priest in Israel’s history who can be only one Person: Jesus.

Read Hebrews 7:20–28. Why should Jesus’ work as High Priest give us hope and fill our hearts with trust?

Jesus is both King and everlasting Priest. So, He is better than any other human priest or king. Jesus serves us in heaven’s temple. Sin and death can’t end His work the way sin and death ended the work of human priests. So, Jesus can go to God and get help for His people forever. Jesus’ work as our loving High Priest gives us hope in God (Hebrew 6:19, 20). We can trust that Jesus, our King and High Priest, will end evil in our hearts and also on this earth. Jesus will always keep the promise in Psalm 2:6–9: He will judge every leader and people group on earth.



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ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “God With Us,” pages 19–26, in *The Desire of Ages*.

Ellen G. White explains how Jesus joined the human family. “Jesus became Human. As a Human, Jesus touched human hearts. As God, Jesus made a way for us to go to God’s throne. Jesus was the Son of Man. He gave us an example of how we should obey God. As God’s Son, Jesus gives us the strength to obey God. Jesus Himself talked with Moses from the burning bush on Horeb. Jesus said to Moses: ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ When you go to the Israelites, tell them, ‘I AM’ sent me to you’ Exodus 3:14 [ERV]. The Lord’s Name was the same as a promise. When Jesus gave Moses His Name, I AM, He gave him His promise to save Israel. So, when Jesus came to this earth in a human body, He announced that He was the I AM. Jesus is the Child of Bethlehem. He is the Savior whose heart was empty of all pride. This same Jesus is God who came in a human body. 1 Timothy 3:16. To us, Jesus says, ‘I AM the Good Shepherd.’ ‘I AM the living Bread.’ ‘I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.’ ‘God gives Me control over all heaven and earth.’ John 10:11; John 6:51; John 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the hope in your heart that tells you I will keep every promise. I AM; don’t be afraid.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 24, 25, adapted.



“When Jesus gave Moses His Name, I AM, He gave him His promise to save Israel.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① How did God show His people that He will keep His promise, even when they show no faith in Him? What hope does this thought give us today when we fail God and fall into sin?
- ② Jesus is a special High Priest or spiritual leader. He is a High Priest much the same as Melchizedek. How does this Bible truth give us faith to believe that Jesus can save His people from sin?
- ③ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John show us how Jesus kept the promises about the Savior in the Book of Psalms. How does this idea help us trust in the Bible?
- ④ Jesus said, “All authority [control] in heaven and on earth is given to me” (Matthew 28:18, ERV). What hope do these words give us?

SEKULE'S STORY (PART 5): LOYAL TO GOD

Sekule became a soldier. During his first few weeks in the army, Sekule went with a group of soldiers to work on a mountain in what used to be the country of Yugoslavia. On a Friday afternoon, Sekule was ordered to shovel coal during Sabbath hours.

The army commander told Sekule what he must do. "You must shovel for 15 minutes. Rest for 10 minutes after that. Then shovel again for another 15 minutes."

Sekule said, "I will shovel for two and a half hours without stopping until the sun goes down. Then I will stop."

The commander said, "No one can shovel for two hours."

Sekule answered, "I can."

Sekule learned how to work hard during his childhood in Montenegro. He shoveled as fast as he could. The other soldiers told Sekule to slow down. They asked, "Why are you working so fast?"

Sekule told them, "I'm trying to do as much as I can. Then you won't need to do so much work."

Sekule's words filled the other soldiers with respect. The soldiers saw that Sekule wanted to help them. Everyone was surprised when Sekule shoveled enough coal by sunset.

The commander didn't understand that Sekule wanted to keep the Sabbath all the time. On another Sabbath, the captain read a list of duties to the soldiers and told them, "You will work today."

Sekule stood tall and brave. "Today is my Sabbath, and I can't do any work."

The commander said, "What do you mean 'can't'?"

Sekule said, "I'm Seventh-day Adventist. I can't work on Sabbath."

The commander gave Sekule an angry look. He said, "Soldier, who will work in your place then?"

All the other soldiers stood tall. They said together, "We will!"

At that moment, Sekule learned an important lesson: we must be loyal both to God and to other people. Jesus said to love "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself.' These two commands are the most important'" (Mark 12:30, 31, ERV). Sekule understood that if he was fair to other people, they would be fair to him.

Sekule Sekulić is a businessman who lives in Montenegro. Read more about his story next week. Thank you for your Sabbath School offerings that help share the Good News about Jesus in Montenegro.

INSIDE Story

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



Everyone was surprised when Sekule shoveled enough coal by sunset.